

CLAIMS

1 1. A method for providing data-on-demand (DOD) services comprising the acts of:
2 providing at least one DOD service to at least one client, wherein said at least one DOD
3 service is stored for future access; and
4 providing at least one associated expiration information packet corresponding to said at
5 least one DOD service to said at least one client, wherein said at least one associated expiration
6 information packet indicates a first predetermined time after which said at DOD service may no
7 longer be accessed.

1 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one associated expiration
2 information packet is provided to said at least one client via a transmission medium.

3 3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one associated expiration
4 information packet is stored.

5 4. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein said at least one DOD service is stored
6 with said at least one associated expiration information packet such that said stored at least one
7 DOD service and said at least one associated expiration information packet may be accessed by
8 said at least one client.

9 5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one DOD service is stored on
10 at least one DOD receiver for future access by said at least one client, and further wherein said at
11 least one DOD receiver is operative to access said stored at least one DOD service.

12 6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein said first predetermined time is exceeded,
13 said DOD receiver is operative to deny access to said stored at least one DOD service.

14 7. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising providing at least one
15 associated copy protection information packet corresponding to said at least one DOD service,
16 wherein said at least one associated copy protection information packet indicates a second

4 predetermined time after which copying of said at least one DOD service is inhibited.

1 8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein said at least one DOD service and said at
2 least one associated copy protection information packet is stored on a DOD receiver operative to
3 access said stored at least one DOD service.

1 9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein said second predetermined time is
2 exceeded, said DOD receiver is operative to copy protect said stored at least one DOD service.

1 10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said DOD receiver is operative to access
2 said at least one DOD service, and further operative to selectively inhibit copying of said at least
3 one DOD service.

1 11. A method for selectively preventing the access by a client to data-on-demand (DOD)
2 services comprising the acts of:
3 receiving at least one DOD service, and
4 receiving at least one associated expiration information packet corresponding to said at
5 least one DOD service, wherein said at least one expiration information packet indicates a first
6 predetermined time after which said at least one DOD service may no longer be accessed; and
7 storing at least a portion of said at least one DOD service in a memory location.

1 12. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said at least one associated expiration
2 information packet is received from an electronic program guide.

1 13. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said storing at least a portion of said at
2 least one DOD service includes storing said at least a portion of said at least one DOD service on
3 a set-top-box (STB) having an internal storage medium, wherein said STB is operative to access
4 at least a portion of said stored DOD service from said internal storage medium.

1 14. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said at least one DOD service is
2 received via a transmission medium.

1 15. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the act of receiving at least
2 one associated copy protection information packet corresponding to said at least one DOD
3 service, wherein said at least one copy protection information packet indicates a second
4 predetermined time after which copying of said at least one DOD service will be hindered.

1 16. A method as recited in claim 15, wherein said received at least one associated
2 copy protection information packet is stored.

1 17. A method as recited in claim 11, further comprising the act of receiving at least
2 one associated copy protection information packet corresponding to said at least one DOD
3 service, and wherein at least a portion of said at least one DOD service is stored on a DOD
4 receiver operative to degrade copying of said at least one DOD service in response to said copy
5 protection information packet.

1 18. A method as recited in claim 11, wherein said storing at least a portion of said at
2 least one DOD service in a memory location includes storing at least a portion of said at least one
3 DOD service on a DOD receiver including said memory location, wherein said DOD receiver is
4 operative to prevent access to said stored portion of said at least one DOD service in response to
5 said expiration information packet..

1 19. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein said DOD receiver is a set-top-box
2 (STB).

1 20. A method as recited in claim 18, wherein said DOD receiver includes a visual
2 display apparatus operative to display at least a portion of said at least one DOD service.

1 21. A data-on-demand (DOD) broadcasting system for providing DOD programs that
2 may only be accessed for a limited time to clients comprising:

3 a DOD server operative to provide at least one DOD program to at least one DOD
4 receiver via a transmission medium, said DOD server further operative to provide at least one
5 associated expiration information packet corresponding to said at least one DOD program in

6 order to enable said at least one DOD receiver to restrict access to said DOD program, wherein
7 said at least one DOD program has expired.

1 22. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 21, wherein said at least one
2 associated expiration information packet is provided to said at least one DOD receiver via said
3 transmission medium.

1 23. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 22, wherein said transmission
2 medium includes electromagnetic signals in the general range of radio and television broadcasts.

1 24. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 22, wherein said transmission
2 medium includes a fiber optic network.

1 25. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 21, wherein said at least one
2 DOD server is further operative to provide at least one associated copy protection information
3 packet corresponding to said at least one DOD program to said at least one DOD receiver,
4 wherein said at least one associated copy protection information packet indicates a
5 predetermined time after which copying of said at least one DOD service may be restricted.

1 26. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 21, wherein said transmission
2 medium includes the Internet.

1 27. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 21, wherein said at least one
2 DOD receiver is operative to restrict access to said at least one DOD program in response to said
3 at least one associated expiration information packet.

1 28. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 27, wherein said at least one
2 DOD receiver is further operative to degrade copying of said at least one DOD program in
3 response to said at least one copy protection information packet.

1 29. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 25, wherein said at least one

2 DOD receiver is a set-top-box (STB).

1 30. A DOD broadcasting system as recited in claim 25, wherein said DOD receiver
2 includes a visual display apparatus operative to display at least a portion of said at least one
3 DOD service.

1 31. A set-top-box (STB) for receiving data-on-demand comprising:
2 a databus;
3 a first communication device suitable for coupling to a digital broadcast communications
4 medium, said first communication device operable to receive digital broadcast data, wherein said
5 digital broadcast data includes at least one DOD service;
6 memory bi-directionally coupled to said databus, said memory including computer
7 executable instructions for:
8 a) reading at least a portion of said digital broadcast data, said digital
9 broadcast data including expiration information associated with said DOD service;
10 b) determining whether said received DOD service is expired based on said
11 expiration information; and
12 c) when said DOD service is expired, preventing access to said DOD service;
13 a digital data decoder bi-directionally coupled to said databus;
14 a central processing unit (CPU) bi-directionally coupled to said databus, said CPU implementing
15 a STB control process controlling said memory, said first communications device and said digital
16 decoder, said STB control process operable to process digital data received at said first
17 communications device.

1 32. A STB as recited in claim 31, wherein said memory includes transient random
2 access memory (RAM) and a persistent storage device, and said computer executable
3 instructions are stored on said persistent storage device.

1 33. A STB as recited in claim 32, wherein said persistent storage device is a hard
2 disk.

1 34. A STB as recited in claim 31, wherein said digital broadcast data further includes
2 copy protection information.

Approved for Release 2001/08/06 : CIA-RDP80-01060A000100010001-6